

Health Care Careers

REGISTERED NURSES

Description

REGISTERED NURSES (RNs) are the largest group among all health occupations. Most RNs work as hospital nurses, but many of them care for patients in private clinics and some work in private homes. They provide nursing care to ill, injured, convalescent, or disabled patients. They assess patient health problems and needs, develop and implement nursing care plans, and maintain medical records. They may do case management or advise patients on health maintenance and disease prevention. Nurses may also provide public health education.

Requirements

- High School graduation or equivalent.
- Completion of a state approved nursing program:
Either two-year Associate Degree in Nursing, or
A four-year Bachelor's Degree in Nursing.
- A passing grade on the State Board of Registered Nursing examination.
- Fingerprint clearance is required.

Sources of Information

- State Board of Registered Nursing, (916) 322-3350, www.rn.ca.gov.
- California Nurses Association, (510) 273-2200, www.calnurse.org.
- *California Occupational Guide*, No. 29, Registered Nurses and Nurse Practitioners.

Wages

RNs earn a median hourly wage of \$27.31. The average annual wage is \$57,855.

Source: Occupational Employment Survey of Employers by EDD/LMID.

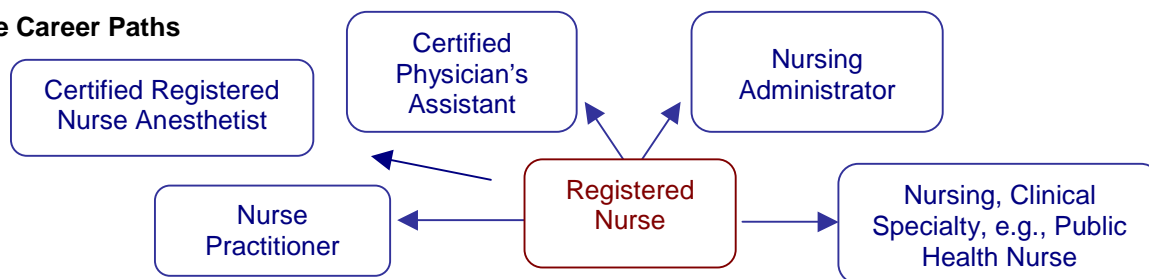
Job Outlook

- Estimated number of RNs in 1998: 172,100
- Estimated number of RNs in 2008: 221,200
- Estimated annual job openings: 8,160

Source: Occupational Projections, EDD/LMID.

Critical RN shortages are expected over the next 10 years; hospitals and clinics have ongoing, active recruitment programs, some offering unique benefits, to attract applicants.

Possible Career Paths



The skills, knowledge, and abilities acquired for the primary occupation provide a solid foundation for further growth in health career occupations. Additional education or training is often required.